



MEMORIAL MESSENGER March 2015



Where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?
Romans 5:20 – 6:2

Some say that it's no coincidence that *Lent* rhymes with *repent*. Although the very first of Luther's 95 theses declares that the entire life of a Christian is one of repentance, Lent is the season of the Christian church year when there's a heightened focus on self-examination and on awareness of our need for salvation won by someone else.

Lent is a time to recognize the many temptations that we face daily to indulge our selfish, sinful desires. The sinful world tells us that no one can tell us what to do. "As long as it feels good and no one gets hurt, it's fine!" We are quick to label substance abuse, embezzlement, harming children as destructive acts.

But how about the less obvious forms of destructive living, those that creep into our lives in clever disguise? The sinful nature inside of me is delighted to compare myself to the flaws of others, and conclude that I'm so much better than they are. That's destructive to my soul because it doesn't examine what's wrong with me. I want to pile up more and more possessions, not satisfied with what God has given me. That's destructive to my walk with God because it suggests that things are more important to me than what the Savior has done for me.

Lent is a time to hear with somber, sensitive consciences the questions that the Holy Spirit had Paul ask. "*What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*" The extra Lent services and the dominant Lent tone lead us to examine our lives in the light of God's law. Look at the suffering Savior—and see the steep price that God demands be paid for sin! Look at my life with God—and see how easily I walk the other way, the easier way, the way the world walks. Is that why Jesus died for us, and thus *we died to sin*? Never! Seeing what the Savior has done to rescue me from hell forever, *how can [I] love in [sin] any longer?*

We're ten days into Lent, and we know where the lessons will take us: to the upper room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the courts of Caiaphas and Annas and Pilate, the cross at Calvary. We don't just shuffle along the way at a safe distance behind Jesus as though we're interested tourists visiting a holy site. He is carrying our guilt, winning our victory over sin. We walk with Him repentant—sorrowing over sin and rejoicing in His forgiveness and using His power to put sin behind us and living in the freedom He has won for us.



May the Holy Spirit bless our Lent repentance as we walk with Jesus and away from sin!

Pastor Voss



THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion continues *each Wednesday in March. Lent services are held at 7:00.*

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, death, and resurrection. Area WELS pastors are conducting the services. The sermons will have the theme *Conflict Under the Cross*.

SUPPERS precede each midweek Lent service. We are doing this as an opportunity for families to come here for their evening meal, then receive spiritual nourishment from God's Word, and still be able to return home by a decent hour.

All suppers begin at **6:00**. A free will offering to help with meal expenses will be received each week.

Our thanks to all who have volunteered to provide food for these suppers, as well as to those who will set things up for the meals and cleaned up after them!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SEVERAL FAMILIES to host jointly the Lent supper on **Wednesday, March 11**. Please sign up the sheet posted on the main church bulletin board.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins **Sunday, March 8!** Set your clocks *ahead* one hour **Saturday evening, March 7**.



WE WILL WORSHIP our crucified and risen Savior at these **Holy Week** services in early April. Invite others to come with you!

Cards that can be used to invite others to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services are available on the church narthex counter.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2 7:00 PM

Holy Communion for our communicant members. Choir rehearsal after the service.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3 7:00 PM

Tenebrae [darkness] service

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5 7:30 & 10:30 AM

Children of the congregation sing at the beginning of both services.

Easter breakfast 8:45 - 9:35; no Sunday or Bible Class.

SPECIAL EASTER FLOWERS A sign-up sheet has been posted on the main church bulletin board for ordering *Easter lilies and/ tulips* to beautify our church sanctuary for the Easter services.

Lilies: 6-inch pot for \$9.25

Tulips: 6-inch pot for \$8.25.

Carol Kasischke is coordinating the order. She asks that you sign up by **March 15**. You may pay Carol at any time for the flowers that you order.





KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP at our school will be *Friday, March 13 from 9:30 – 11:30*. Letters are being sent to our members who have children of Kindergarten age for next school year, and others who have express an interest in our Kindergarten. If you are aware of anyone who might be interested, please speak to Mrs. Leitz or Pastor Voss to get information sent to that family.

PRESCHOOL ROUNDUP at our school will be held *Thursday, March 12 from 10:30 – 11:30*. If you know of a family interested in Preschool for next year, please tell them about this special day and speak to Mrs. Leitz.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: The next event is being organized for Sunday, March 22 at the church from 2:00 until 4:30. The activities will include:

- music, especially rhythm instruments;
- familiarity with tools for both boys and girls;
- identifying birds; and more.

If you can play an instrument, please bring the instrument and show the others how it's played and unique aspects of that instrument.

SCHOOL HOT LUNCH HELP

Denis & Nancy Hart are organizing hot lunches for our school students once per month. We are looking for volunteers to help serve the meals which will be on a Friday at noon. All the arrangements for the food will be made in advance by Denis & Nancy. Speak to Denis & Nancy if you have any questions.

The next school hot lunch is scheduled for *Friday, March 20*.

OUR CHIME CHOIR AND VOICE CHOIR have resumed rehearsals. Join us! The rehearsals are on Thursday evenings. The chime choir meets in the church fellowship hall at **6:30**; the voice choir meets at **7:30** in the church sanctuary.

OUR GRAYCE GROUP will not hold a Monday noon meeting this month. Instead, GRAYCE will host the Lent supper on *Wednesday, March 25*. Watch for more information.

BOWLING We are planning a bowling event for *Saturday, April 4 at City Limits Bowling Center in Mason*. When the facility has confirmed with us the time (likely 12:00 – 2:00) and cost, we will let you know through the Sunday bulletin and with an email sent to our members.

We will be asking you to pre-pay—at least for those who are committed to attending. This will hasten the process at the bowling center, allowing for more time to use the lanes.

Set aside the date and time now!

PLEASE NOTE that the schedule of those who serve each week in various ways is now posted on our web site.

Usher team numbers are on the calendar labeled “*Our Calendar*” along the right side of our web site’s home page. The Altar Guild, church cleaners, greeters, and ushers are also listed by date in a separate link. Along the top of our home page, under “*Memorial Lutheran Church*”, click on “*Serving for Services*” for quick reference.

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS for our church and school web site, please let Laurie Voss know.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS to the internet and get this *Memorial Messenger* that way, please let us know and we will no longer print a copy for you.

WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held *April 10-11* at the Crowne Plaza on Creyts Road in Lansing. You may register online at www.tcwr.org.



Ladies Fellowship We will meet Monday, March 2 at 7:00 PM and continue our Catechism studies with Pastor. After our study we will make cards to be sent to our members. Please bring any supplies you can share with us to be used for this project. Karen and Elizabeth will be our hostesses.

At our February meeting, we finalized our agenda for 2015. We talked about several new projects we will work on and events we hope to have. We also set up a menu for the Lent supper we will host. Perhaps the most rewarding thing we talked about that evening was where we will send out mission offerings from last year. We sent offerings to WELS World Missions and asked them to use it for work in Hong Kong. We also put some money towards getting new banners for our sanctuary and sent some to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for our 2 members who are studying for the preaching ministry to use towards tuition.

MORNINGS WITH MOMMY will meet Thursday March 19th from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Please come and bring a friend! Contact our director if you have any questions or would like to register for our next session at kleitz25@gmail.com. The theme next month will be Moon, Stars, and Night-Time. We will be decorating stars to hang in the "sky", and making special star gazing glasses, and much more! Come join the fun!

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – Our district president reports that pastoral vacancies across our Synod are about 52, and there could be a number of additional retirements announced in the next month or two as men nearing 67 years of age set the date when their pastoral service will end. There are 30 seniors graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in May, meaning that a number of congregations will likely be experiencing lengthy pastoral vacancies.

In early February Anthem Inc., the claims administrator for WELS-VEBA health insurance, announced that their computer system was hacked. WELS-VEBA is monitoring this situation closely. Anthem is offering free credit monitoring services for WELS-VEBA members.

There will be a special Michigan District Convention June 8-10 to prepare Michigan District delegates on issues to be decided at the WELS Convention July 27-30. The special Michigan District Convention will be held at Adrian College because the staff at Michigan Lutheran Seminary will be preparing to host nearly 500 delegates and guests at the WELS Convention. Since this year's Michigan District Convention will be held away from MLS, the cost for lodging and meals will be somewhat height than in previous years.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The Board of Christian Education recommends that tuition rates for the 2015-2016 school year remain unchanged from 2014-2015 levels: \$1000.00 for K-5 and \$1350.00 for preschool 3 mornings per week. (There is a \$50 application fee for preschool.)

We organized our board for 2015 as follows: Howard Clark-chairman; Norman Schlicker-chairman of PTO; Dave Fortin-secretary of BOCE.

Mornings with Mommy was held January 18 with 3 in attendance. The next meeting was scheduled for February 19.

Kindergarten Roundup will be held Friday, March 13 from 9:30-11:30. Preschool Roundup will be held Thursday, March 12 from 10:30-11:30.

For the 2015-2016 school year the cut-off age for kindergarten is September 1 (currently October 1). We will adopt the September 1 date that will be used by the Michigan Department of Education, with the ability to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis up to children turning 5 by December 1. (Preschool cut off dates will be the same. Children must turn 3 by September 1 to enter preschool.)

We approved the school calendar for 2015-2106.

We discussed clean up of the computer lab and school in general for obsolete items.

The MLS Fine Arts Fair is March 7 in Saginaw.

The students went to a play in East Lansing on February 12 and PTO covered the cost of the field trip.

The CMLAL Choir Concert is Friday, March 13.

The PTO hosted the first mid-week Lent supper on February 18.

The next PTO meeting is April 15 at 6:30 PM.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends that the congregation pay an additional \$6/month to cover a portion of the increase in monthly charges for internet at the pastor's study.

We are grateful that her health allows Linda Janecke to resume chime choir and voice choir rehearsals.

Our musicians have noted that the piano in the sanctuary doesn't always hold its pitch after the piano is tuned. We thank Bryan Grinnell for his continuing work to tune the piano.

Denis Hart presented the board with a sample of the candle used in a number of congregations when singing "Silent Night" in the Christmas Eve service. We'll continue to discuss how we might use such candles in future Christmas Eve services here, and what it would cost to get the supplies.

We used a *Farewell to Alleluia* statement and hymn to close the worship services on Transfiguration Sunday, February 15.

We discussed last spring's Christian Passover meal and feel that this event is not one to do annually, but every two or three years.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – Internet reliability at school remains an issue, Kim Fedewa or Jason Leitz will take a look at equipment and check the computers used by Laurie Voss and Judy Domke.

We will promote a showing of the *Road to Emmaus* during Lent/Holy Week.

We are planning a bowling outing at City Limits in Mason on April 4th. We will reserve lanes ahead of time.

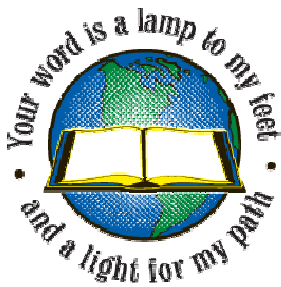
We discussed Lent suppers. We are looking for volunteers to cover the March 11th supper. The rest of the suppers are covered by different groups.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Our board recommends hiring B&D Electric to remove and install new LED lighting in the gymnasium, based on their proposal cost of \$15,530.00.

Our board spent a lot of time researching the cost, efficiency, material pricing, lumens needed, various options on different forms of LED lights, number of lights being used currently vs. reducing the number of lights needed with LED, using our own labor force vs. hiring it out. After reviewing all of these options our board decided the best option is to go with the bid offered by B&D Electric. The material cost from B&D, in our opinion, has not been marked up. The labor cost is based on two men for two days which is very reasonable, and the cost of renting a lift. DTE will provide an estimated rebate of \$1,770.00 (off our billing), \$2,430.00 a year in energy saving, will provide a 5 to 6 year break even on the cost of upgrading the lighting in the gym.

The church furnace went out on a Saturday afternoon and was repaired by GLS Heating for a cost of \$190.00 labor and \$318.00 material.





BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

FROM OUR KINDERGARTEN ROOM: This month in Christ Light we have been learning about Jesus preaching to the people and also teaching the disciples trying to prepare them for after His coming death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. We have learned such stories as healing of the ten lepers, the prodigal son, the rich man and poor Lazarus, Mary and Martha, healing the man born blind, Jesus riding into Jerusalem, and the workers in the vineyard. These stories taught us many different lessons; all pointing us to Christ as our Savior and King whom we should thank, worship, trust, and praise. This next month we will start to learn about the events leading up to His death and resurrection.

In math we have been working on telling time with clocks, calendars and seasons. We also have been adding and counting with pennies and nickels. For Super Kids we have finished meeting the Super kids and are now learning about the fun things they are doing as a club. We have covered the letters H, U, B, and R. They also are becoming more fluent in reading the words rather than sounding all of them out. They have been working on writing sentences and learning different ways to end a sentence. In Social Studies we have spent the last few weeks learning about our wonderful state of MI! It was fun to also learn these facts of MI for myself since I am not a native to this state. ☺ We will go back to science subjects for next month.

We also had fun celebrating Valentines Day, 100th day, and a field trip day all in one day! We were able to see the play "Wind in the Willows" at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing.

We have Preschool Round-Up coming up this month on Thursday March 12th from 10:30-11:30. The next day Friday March 13th from 9:30-11:30 we will have our Kindergarten Round-Up. Any and all children of Preschool and Kindergarten age are invited to come explore the classrooms and school, get some information and participate in some fun activities!

May your month of March warm up. May our Lent season be full of appreciation and awe for the Lord as we reflect on all that He did for us so that we may join Him in heaven some day!

FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:

This past month we have been with Jesus and the disciples on their way to Jerusalem. Jesus has preached, taught, healed and comforted. We see in our Savior the ultimate man, pastor and friend. What a joy to learn so much about His love for all people. As we go to the cross with Him, we marvel at His sacrifice for fallen people.

This month we enjoyed several extra activities. We traveled to East Lansing to see "The Wind in the Willows". We also had a Valentine's Day party, played games for our 100th day, and had a fun taco/sloppy Joe lunch.

In Social Studies we are learning about the early automobile industry. We have studied the Ford, General Motors, and Oldsmobile companies and the flamboyant men who started them. We have watched videos of the moving assembly lines and changes in how vehicles are made. Michigan really has been the place to be if you are interested in transportation!

Coming up we are excited about Easter, beginning our play, and maybe getting outside again when the weather warms up a bit. A few students are working hard on Fine Arts Fair entries and we have also begun our CMLAL music for the March concert. Lots going on in our neck of the woods!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MARCH SERVICES:

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
8:00	10:30			
3/01 - #2 V. Domke	#9 D. Fisher	N. Mills	J&S Janecke	J&S Janecke
3/04 - #8 D. Rector		N. Mills		
3/08 - #5 S. Houser	#1 T. Marion	M. Bennett	H&S Clark	D&C Kasischke
3/11 - #9 D. Fisher		M. Bennett		
3/15 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#3 J. Janecke	K. Unruh	D&C Kasischke	T&L Loeffler
3/18 - #1 T. Marion		K. Unruh		
3/22 - #7 D. Kasischke	#4 B. Grinnell	S. Unruh	D&D Miller	D&D Miller
3/25 - #5 S. Houser		S. Unruh		
3/29 - #2 V. Domke	#8 D. Rector	Kathy Ward	D&S Rector	F&N Mills